

NEWS RELEASE from

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## **LIPINSKI ANNOUNCES OPPOSITION TO IRAQ RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MILITARY FORCE AND SUPPORT OF SPRATT SUBSTITUTE**

*Congressman Bill Lipinski released the following statement today regarding the Authorization for Military Force Against Iraq, H.J. Res. 114.*

"Today, I announce my support of Congressman Spratt's alternative to this resolution authorizing military force against Iraq. First of all, I would like to say that there is no question that Saddam Hussein is evil personified. He is Adolph Hitler and Joseph Stalin rolled into one reprehensible dictator. This world would no doubt be a better place without him.

But this record of cruelty does not give a lawful reason to attack Iraq without proof that their activities pose an imminent threat to the security of the United States. So I must ask: Why must we pass this resolution now? I still have not received a clear, convincing answer to that question.

I have asked it, and many other questions of those who support this resolution, including the Secretary of State. They have failed to make an effective case as to why Congress should authorize a historic shift in policy from containment and deterrence to that of pre-emptive attacks.

As far as I know Saddam Hussein has committed no *new* evil acts, since President Bush was sworn into office almost two years ago. Why didn't the President ask for this resolution at that time? During his campaign, President Bush himself said that the United States should not be the "world's policeman". Why the shift in policy? When the President first started talking about using military force against Iraq, it was said that Saddam Hussein was linked with September 11<sup>th</sup>, but then British and U.S. intelligence revealed that wasn't true. Also, when the President first starting talking about removing Saddam Hussein, he claimed that he had the authority to do so under a 1998 resolution. However, now we are here considering the authorization of military forces at the President's request. Furthermore, the President was prepared to go it alone, and then he decided to ask for the support of as many allies as possible, including the United Nations. These are just some examples of the mixed messages from the Administration. The President's approach to the Iraq situation has had numerous changes in a short span of time.

Due to the President's disjointed approach, the lack of answers to many questions that various colleagues and I have, and the fact that containment of Saddam Hussein has worked for the past decade, I cannot support this resolution.

I have tried very hard to support the President and this resolution because I believe the President is sincere and truly thinks that military force is the only way to deal with Saddam Hussein. Perhaps he is right, but I cannot in good conscience support military force until we first seek UN weapons inspections and the support of the international community. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting Congressman Spratt's substitute resolution."

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